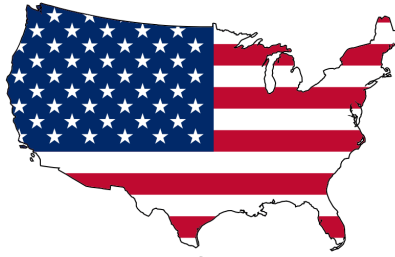


United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter

C O L L A G E



Global articles for your interest

Issue 4

March 1 - March 15, 2009

Contents:

1. Government Actions Seen Affecting Economic Recovery

The effectiveness of actions taken by the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Treasury and other federal agencies in restoring financial stability will determine much of the timing and strength of the economic recovery, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke says. ...

2. US-Supported Foreign Broadcasting Adapts to Digital Age

The U.S. government's radio and television broadcast organization, Voice of America, is maintaining its traditional radio and television news coverage while stretching to embrace new technology. Director Dan Austin talks with America.gov about how his organization is evolving for the 21st century. ...

3. US Award Honors, Supports Women Who Fight for Social Justice

For the third consecutive year, the United States honors women who fight to protect human rights. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and first lady Michelle Obama congratulate the 2009 winners of the International Women of Courage awards at a State Department ceremony in Washington. ...

4. Players from 16 Countries Will Compete in World Baseball Classic

Star players from 16 countries are ready to represent their native lands in the 2009 renewal of the World Baseball Classic, with China and defending champion Japan set to compete in the first game March 5. Most of the national teams will include players on loan from the U.S. major leagues. ...

5. Former Child Soldier Uses Music as a Weapon Against Violence

A former child soldier in the Sudanese civil war has turned rapper/activist to touch lives and promote peace and education in his war-stricken homeland. Emmanuel Jal talks with America.gov about how he is using his personal story and his music to oppose violence and promote peace. ...

In case you missed it:



Ambassador
[Philip T. Reeker](#)

[A Time to Shine](#)

By Ambassador Philip T. Reeker

March 20, 2009

As the Republic of Macedonia prepares for its upcoming elections, I encourage every citizen to exercise his or her democratic right to help choose the future course of your country. This is a right that is yours alone and you should be able to cast your vote free of fear, intimidation and violence. We expect your government to take the necessary steps to make sure these elections are free and fair. Your participation on election day is an equally integral part of successful elections... [more](#).



Ambassador Reeker listens as residents of Nikushtak tell him their perspectives on the upcoming elections. ([LP](#))


Hitting the Road to Promote Free and Fair Elections

March 11, 2009

Ambassador Reeker and a team from the Embassy have traveled to towns throughout Macedonia to talk with candidates, party leaders and citizens about the importance of the upcoming elections. At each stop the Ambassador urged the candidates and political parties to play fair during the campaign and urged the citizens to help choose the future course of Macedonia by voting on election day.

- ◆ To see media coverage of his stops in Tetovo, please [click here](#).
- ◆ To learn more about his visit to Debar, please [click here](#) and to learn about the Ambassador's visit to Veles, [go here](#).
- ◆ To read about his message to the candidates in Cair and Saraj, please [click here](#).
- ◆ To read a report on the Ambassador's visit to Aracinovo as part of his tour to the region of Kumanovo on March 13, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker comments on the soccer event.  **video** - size 4.9 MB

From the Football Field to the Election Campaign

March 15, 2009

Ambassador Reeker attended a soccer match arranged between the three leading ethnic Albanian parties. He and many others cheered the teams on as they competed on a beautiful spring day. In comments to the media at the event, he praised the parties for coming together to promote fair play in sports and in the campaign and also thanked the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for arranging the event. NDI received a \$200,000 grant from the US Embassy to work with local organizations to promote free and fair elections.

♦ To see (ALSAT TV video footage, size 4.9MB) press coverage of this event, please [click here](#).



Dr. Fields begins his talk.

The Rhetoric of Elections: Digital Video Conference (DVC) with Professor Wayne Fields, Washington University, St. Louis

March 13, 2009

The Public Affairs Section hosted a DVC with local partner Center for Research and Policy Making to discuss the rhetoric of elections with Professor Wayne Fields from Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Fields, an expert on American political argument, is the author of *Union of Words: A History of Political Eloquence*. Fields reviewed the integral place of a "rhetorical culture" in any democracy—one in which citizens expect to have a sustained relationship built on a common cause--before engaging the audience in a spirited question and answer session. The Embassy expects to welcome Dr. Fields to Macedonia for a series of speaking engagements in May. Please continue to check our home page for further details.



Ambassador Reeker discusses elections in Macedonia with the chief editor of *Utrinski Vesnik* (LP)

Discussing the Future with Utrinski Vesnik

March 14, 2009

Ambassador Reeker recently sat down to talk with *Utrinski Vesnik* editor Ljupco Popovski to discuss the upcoming elections and the challenges that face Macedonia as it works to attain its Euro-Atlantic aspirations, as well as press freedom in Macedonia.

♦ To see a transcript of the interview, please [click here](#).

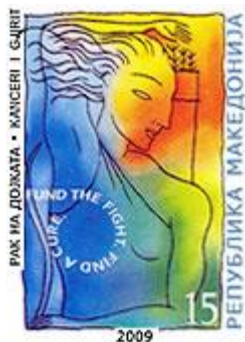


U.S. Fulbright Scholar and Poet Dougherty knelt down cleaning the floor in front of him with his bare hands to mark the start of his poetry reading

U.S. Fulbright Scholar and Poet Sean Thomas Dougherty Reads at American Corner Skopje

March 12, 2009

Little did the attendees of the poetry reading at the American Corner Skopje know what they were going to experience when they signed up to attend Fulbrighter Sean Thomas Dougherty's poetry reading. Many of them were shocked when he took off not only his shoes, but his socks as well, and knelt down to clean the floor in front of him with his bare hands. When he stood up, he rubbed his palms and banged his foot several times, thus marking the official beginning of his performance. Most of the poems he read were from his book entitled *Broken Hallelujahs*. To bring his poems closer to the many literature students and professors who were present in the audience, he spoke about the poems' structure, explaining what it was that made him decide to write poems. Dougherty concluded his performance in a shocking way as he had started it, by reading a poem he jokingly claimed might get him deported out of the country; yet by the end, his audience appreciated his poetry even more. Please check this website soon for information about Sean's next performances. Please click [here](#) for more information about the [Fulbright program](#).



Breast Cancer Research Stamp

U.S. Speaker Balazs Bodai Unveils Breast Cancer Research Stamp in Macedonia

March 2, 2009

As part of the first-ever international breast cancer conference in Macedonia, Dr. Balazs Bodai, the inventor of the breast cancer research stamp that has raised over \$80 million in funds for research in the U.S., unveiled the stamp here in Macedonia as part of his Global Journey project. This event was a collaboration between the Boris Trajkovski International Foundation, the Macedonian Post, and the US Embassy through the Balkans Breast Cancer Initiative (BBCI). Mrs. Solveig Reeker also addressed the crowd on the subject of partnership as part of the conference.

◆ To see an excerpt of Mrs. Reeker's speech and the unveiling of the stamp, please [click here](#). | To read more about the BBCI, please [click here](#).

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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